



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 20, 2018
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Anti-Bullying Specialists and Anti-Bullying Coordinators
From: Luiz Pereira, Acting Assistant Director
Office of Student Support Services

Resources for 2018-19 Week of Respect and School Violence Awareness Week

New Jersey school districts recognize the importance of developing and maintaining positive school climates, and providing students with a safe and supportive school environment devoid of harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) encourages academic success and increased social and emotional competence. The Week of Respect and School Violence Awareness Week offer New Jersey schools an opportunity to concentrate on this effort by delivering age-appropriate instruction to students on these essential topics.

Week of Respect

The *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.L.2010, c.122)* requires that the week beginning with the first Monday in October of each year (**October 1-5 in 2018**) be designated as the Week of Respect in New Jersey. To recognize the importance of social and emotional learning and character education, school districts, charter schools and renaissance school projects are required to observe the week by providing age-appropriate instruction focused on preventing HIB. Approved private schools for students with disabilities are encouraged, but not required, to observe this week. School communities may consider reviewing the following resources in preparation for the Week of Respect:

For School and District Staff:

- [New Jersey Department of Education Social and Emotional Learning](#)
- [Center on Great Teachers and Leaders: Self-Assessing Social and Emotional Instruction and Competencies](#)
- [Preventing Bullying in Schools](#)

For Students:

- [Social and Emotional Learning Toolkit](#)
- [Teaching Tolerance: Classroom Lessons](#)
- [Stomp Out Bullying](#)

School Violence Awareness Week

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-5.1 requires that the week beginning with the third Monday in October of each year (**October 15-19 in 2018**) be designated as School Violence Awareness Week in New Jersey. The New Jersey Department of Education has developed [Guidance for School Violence Awareness Week](#) to help school districts, charter schools, renaissance school projects and approved private schools for students with disabilities comply with the requirements.

While the New Jersey Legislature has set aside both weeks to highlight these very important issues, it is a school district's clear, consistent message throughout the school year about positive school climate and student behavioral expectations that will help reduce violence and create safe and supportive learning environments for all students and staff.

Contact Information

Please direct questions to the Office of Student Support Services at SchoolClimate@doe.nj.gov.

- c: Members, State Board of Education
- Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education
- NJDOE Staff
- Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
- Garden State Coalition of Schools
- NJ LEE Group